March 6, 2020

To: Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick and Representative Paul Holvey Co-Chairs Joint Committee on Ballot Measure Titles and Explanatory Statements

Re: Draft Ballot Title for LC 161, IRR 401, SJR 18 (2019) – Comment

The League of Women Voters first studied campaign finance in 1973 and has advocated for our strong positions on the subject ever since. The League supported the adoption of SJR 18 in 2019 and has already formally endorsed its passage by the voters in November.

1. The draft ballot title makes no mention of the public’s ability to use the initiative process to enact the laws that would be enabled by the constitutional amendment. This is a major oversight and should be added to the ballot title.

2. IRR 401 has four provisions, two of which are about contributions and expenditures and two of which are about transparency and disclosure. The draft ballot title and summary emphasize and say comparatively little about the transparency and disclosure provisions. These should be given equal footing with the contribution and expenditure limit provisions.

3. The phrase “related laws requiring disclosures” is confusing. How are voters supposed to interpret that? Please explain more particularly or write something simpler.

4. The phrase “allows enactment of laws limiting…” is also confusing. Can we make it simpler? How about “allows laws limiting…”

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this ballot measure title.

Rebecca Gladstone
LWVOR President

Norman Turrill
LWVOR Governance Coordinator